

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

October 18, 2005

**7:00 PM
Aldermanic Chambers
City Hall (3rd Floor)**

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

Mayor Baines called for the Pledge of Allegiance, this function being led by Alderman Thibault.

A moment of silent prayer was observed. Mayor Baines asked everyone to keep in their thoughts and prayers all of the people in the Western part of the state, especially in Alstead who have lost property and lives and are working to rebuild their lives with the support of so many people across our great state.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta (late), Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O’Neil, Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting was to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Steve Vaillancourt, 161 Faith Lane, Manchester stated:

I didn’t know if Christmas or Halloween was coming so I decided to wear red and black for you this evening. I won’t need the full two minutes, but having been attacked by one of these non-partisan newspapers that came out today I thought I would live up to my reputation as a gadfly. As many of you know, I do not favor government paying for sports arenas or sports complexes anymore than I favor them paying for movie theatres but as many of you also know I spent 10 years as a sportscaster and love baseball. I have kind of been taken by the Chicago White Sox and I think many years from now the answer to the trivia question will be Garcia, Garland, Cantreras and Burley and for the name of Burley I think of the police officer at the door. The four White Sox pitchers for the first time in nearly half a

century who pitched back to back to back to back complete games. It leads me to my question wouldn't government be great if it were like the Chicago White Sox bullpen – there but not necessary to be used all the time? But then I guess, your Honor, you are no Ozzie Guillen. Thank you.

Carolyn Bellefeuille, 63 Kidder Street, Manchester stated:

My reason for coming to you this evening is to address Manchester Place's garage. When Manchester Place was proposed to the City and to our community, the drawings and the specs that were shown to us were something very different than what is there today. No one wants a parking garage right next to them but at least it looks like the City had made an effort to make this something that would fit in with our very historical community. It seemed to have...it had walls all along it and they seemed to be in brick. It had some glass exposure and it had ivy growing all over it. Somewhere along the line the City changed the plans and we ended up with a parking garage that doesn't even look as well as the one that is now at the Manchester Airport. It is wide open. There are no walls. There are simply rusty cables that take the place of walls and do not hide the cars that are in it from any of the vision outside. One of the benefits that we all thought was going to come from the parking garage was that it was going to block the noise of the motorcycles that rev in the fair weather times of our season that went across Bridge Street. Much to our dismay, it has not blocked any of it. It actually resonates the sound out into our neighborhood and it is louder than ever. On top of that, I would like to address the lights that have just gone on. We live in a very tiny community. We are out in the evening sipping wine and now all of the sudden this garage is ablaze. Isn't there something that you can do to diffuse the lights on it? It has ruined our neighborhood and the whole place we feel has ruined our neighborhood. We have a big plastic and brick building and for heaven's sake don't ruin it any further by having it ablaze from dusk until dawn.

William Blanchette, 64 Hollis Street, Manchester stated:

I also live at the Amoskeag Terrace Condo Complex. We are, as most of you I am sure are aware, adjacent to the new residences at Manchester Place. Another major concern of all of the unit owners at Amoskeag Place is the parking situation. It has been horrendous to begin with. We are surrounded by retail. We now have a glorious pawnshop, fortunately spelled pawn and not porn. We have ADP and on the other side we have Dunn Furniture. We have the pharmaceutical college and many other buildings around us. The parking was very limited to begin with – street parking. We do have resident parking permits but it has been a continuous battle to secure a parking space to even use them. This is now going to be further exacerbated by 300 tenants in the Manchester Place building in addition to all of their friends and family dropping in and looking for places to park. It is going to be an absolute nightmare not to mention the traffic and the real danger of major accidents at the intersections involved between Kidder Street, Elm and Canal. We are hoping that the City will take a real close look at Kidder Street, the access and egress from Manchester Place and

take Amoskeag Place into consideration. We have made a major investment in downtown and we are being run roughshod right over.

Dick Charpentier, 99 Kidder Street, Manchester stated:

My concern is Kidder Street. Kidder, as you know, is where Manchester Place is being built and Kidder Street has been a disaster for the last year and a half. This year they started paving Kidder Street so our concern is that Kidder Street be returned to the status it had prior to the construction. The parking meters have been pushed aside. They are leaning in all directions. The sidewalks have been torn up. The trees have been partially sheared so the neighborhood looks like a disaster. Recently, our Mayor said he was concerned about some neighborhoods – the Hollow and others in the City. Well we would like to see that our temporary neighbor, the construction company, leaves the street in the condition to which they found it and that our new neighbors, Manchester Place, LLC treat the area with the condition that it was in in the past. One other concern is the safety of pedestrians. Recently traveling south on Canal Street I noticed that at the corner of Westbrook and Commercial when the walk lights go on there is this nice board that comes on and says no right turn on red and then it goes off when the walk lights are off. I think the City should consider installing that type of lighting at Bridge and Elm. We have had several neighbors who have come close to being hit by cars who were over anxious to make that turn on to Bridge Street. Thank you.

Glenn R. J. Ouellette, 112 Auburn Street, Manchester stated:

Tonight I am here to talk about budgeting and affordable housing. In 2001 we had 2,000 families trying to get into affordable housing. This year in 2005 we have well over 8,000 families trying to get in now. For some of you who may think that these people are not living in town but just trying to get in, forget it. They are here. They are living two, three and four families in a two or three bedroom apartment, which causes emotions, which causes our police officers to come more often in our inner City and we are not doing much about it. Another thing is I know that this Board has always been good about supplying affordable housing but when we use \$5 million, which I call corporate welfare and not welfare as we know it to build a parking garage that doesn't even look like it is supposed to look like, and that we the taxpayers cannot use because we do not live in that building, we should be ashamed of ourselves. Did you know that in June/July of this year a Manchester person who wanted to rent a one-bedroom apartment would have to earn \$17.10 on a 40-hour workweek? On October 5 of this year because of the oil crisis and all of the increases, that jumped to \$17.25. In 2006 in May and June if the revaluation raises residential taxpayers properties double, which some people are expecting to see, you would have to earn \$20,000 for that same one bedroom apartment. Shame on this City.

Keith Hirschmann, 296 Dunbarton Road, Manchester stated:

I felt it important to come down here tonight and provide some institutional memory to the City fathers. If you turn the clock back eight years most of you sitting here tonight were not

on the Board of Mayor and Aldermen but crime did rear its ugly head. Crime in a way that the Aldermen had to step up and the Mayor had to step up because we had an entertainment complex on the West Side called The Pyramid Entertainment Complex. As a three term Alderman from the West Side, I stood with Bill Cashin, Alderman from Ward 10 and Hank Thibault and all of the other Aldermen and what we did was we appealed to the NH Liquor Commission to put an end to an establishment that created a public safety hazard in our City. Gunshots went off out in the parking lot. There were fights. There were stabbings. There were all kinds of horrid things. The Aldermen stepped up to the plate with the current Mayor at the time, Mayor Wieczorek, appealed to the Liquor Commission and pulled the license of The Pyramid Entertainment Complex. We are now faced with a situation that is much worse in a much more drastic public safety measure and to hand this off is a passive move in a time that Manchester needs leadership. We need someone to step up and say I am going to make a motion to end all of this violence in the City of Manchester. We are not going to put up with stabbings. We are not going to put up with gunshots. We are going to protect our citizens. I read in the newspaper everyone's election positions and you say that you support public safety. Well if you really care about the people that wear the blue uniforms you will make a motion to the NH Liquor Commission to end any violent actions from any clubs in this City. If I sit again on this Board of Aldermen, I will make that motion because it has gotten to the point where people are being shot in the face. Two people, I think one has been murdered. There are rapes and all kinds of horrid incidents in this City. A lot of them are club related. The Police Commission is an advisory panel that reports to you. You people are the leaders of this City and you need to take action. I ask you to support our City in this fashion. Thank you.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

Mayor Baines asked if one of the public presentations could be done now. By unanimous consent, it was voted to take up a presentation by the Arts Commission.

Mayor Baines called the members of the Arts Commission forward and Georgie Reagan, Special Assistant to the Mayor for Arts.

Mayor Baines stated I would like to call forward our distinguished guest, a great friend of all of us in City government and just a good person that represents the greatness of our community, Bob Raiche.

Peter Ramsey, Arts Commissioner, stated I have the distinct pleasure tonight to announce publicly that the City Arts Commission has voted to award an outstanding certificate of achievement to Mr. Robert Raiche for his lifetime of service to the City of Manchester and his kind thoughts and words to all of us. This certificate of appreciation is hereby granted to

Robert Raiche in recognition as an individual who exhibits outstanding achievement in supporting, promoting and encouraging the arts in Manchester for all of us. Thank you Sir.

Robert Raiche stated I just want to thank everybody. I think it is quite an honor and I feel very humbled so thank you very much.

Mayor Baines stated I just want to say a couple of words about this gentleman. We have been impacted in our lives with so many people who are fighting courageous battles. Steve Tellier is one and by the way he came in to work this week. Those of you who know what is going on with my sister know what we are dealing with there as well but I made a trip up to Dartmouth Hitchcock a couple of months ago. The word was maybe you need to get up there and see Bob. I went up and spent some quality time with him. He was in his hospital robe with all of these tubes coming out of him and he was posing me for a picture. He wanted a picture and it was like why don't you stand here, no why don't you stand here and the whole thing. It was an amazing thing because once a photographer, always a photographer. Well you know he is beating the odds. He is working. He was at the Bishop's reception taking pictures. He had another little setback recently and is here tonight really exemplifying the positive condition of the human spirit. People who fight these battles that sometimes you don't even know about and they provide an example for everyone. I tell my sister every day how proud I am of her. Bob, we are proud of you because we have a Cancer crusade going on across our City and the walk on Sunday...Mark Roy was there with me. There must have been 2,000 or 3,000 people. It gives an indication of people whose lives have been impacted by people fighting Cancer but what I have found is when people like you show that you can fight the battle and you can live every day to its fullest, that is an inspiration to all of us who often times complain about a lot of minor things. Bob, I admire you, I love you and I wish you and your family all the best.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Forest, duly seconded by Alderman O'Neil it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk